

Friends of Parks and Recreation
Minutes
January 21, 2025

Attending

Laurie Mason
Doug Severs
Ruby Moon
Meredith Petit

Charley Fisher
Jean Scott
Stephanie Long
Ken Haines

Absent

Tom Kirch Olga Loza

Minutes

The meeting was brought to order at 4:30. Tom made a motion to approve the minutes. Laurie seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Laurie reported getting stock that sold for a bit over \$191,000 from the primary MLK donor. She confirmed our understanding that we had agreed to halve our usual percentage. Meredith asked where that interest would go — general fund or MLK fund. Laurie responded that interest earned on donations is not assigned to any but the general fund, and we talked about making an exception for this donor starting with this January donation, or for MLK Park, or for any fund over a particular amount. Tom asked what the understanding with the donor is. It was suggested that any account with over \$100,000 should have a separate money market account. Charley mentioned that this was not a problem when there was less money as money came in and went out right away. It was agreed that we should let this rest for a month and talk about it next month. Laurie reported that Olga suggested that we find a new, more interesting name for the General Fund as well. Laurie also reported that, even though we did not have an annual donation letter, we received about \$10,000 in December and another \$2000 in January in donations. Stephanie moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Charley seconded. The vote to accept the report was unanimous.

Parks and Rec Update

Meredith reported that seasonal workers will return at the end of February. Also, some positions such as the urban forester and natural resources have been reworked. The Spring/Summer Activity Guide goes out in March. Ruby asked about Osborn. Meredith said the city council will get a report about this on 2/3. Also, the city is talking with the School District which owns the building. The range of costs to properly repair the facility could be 2.5 to 4 million dollars. Tom asked if there were any reserve funds. Meredith said only about \$400,000. The city could close the center for a year and fix the roof or close for 1.5 years and fix everything.

Sip and Spell

Sip and Spell is an annual event that will be held at the Majestic on February 1 at 7pm. Doors open at 6pm and Friends will have a table in the lobby. Ruby offered to be at the table and Doug as well. Stephanie will pick up the box at Parks and Rec and will set up the table about 5:30.

Annual Appeal Letter

Ken thought Julia at Parks and Rec was on the right track with the brochure-like design she did. There was a discussion about what format this should be going forward and what information should and should not be included. Stephanie reported that she spoke to Roberta Sperling, who offered to help create the annual letter as long as she receives all information no later than September 1. Jean would like to help with the letter and is happy to work with Roberta. Charley suggested that we might do a mailing twice a year, sending a letter in December and a brochure mid-year. Doug asked that we find out how much we received in donations in years past, when the letter was sent, and how many people received it.

Our next meeting will be held on February 18 at 4:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Long Mehlenbacher